

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a floor panel (2), the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a panel body (12) having a core (3, 13), a top side (3a, 13a) of said core (3, 13) being provided with a top surface layer (4), said panel body (12) further having a side surface (13b) extending transversely to the top surface layer (4);
- forming a recess (15) extending under the top surface layer (4) from the side surface (13b) into the panel body (12) by leaving a freestanding ledge (16) including said top surface layer (4), said recess (15) having opposing first and second recess surfaces (15a, 15b); and
- closing said recess (15) by fixing the first and second recess surfaces (15a, 15b) to one another, thereby forming a floor panel (2) having a beveled top edge (10a, 10b, 25, 26) with the top surface layer (4) extending continuously and in one piece from the top side (3a, 13a) of the core (3, 13) over the beveled top edge (10a, 10b, 25, 26).

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said recess (15) is wedge-shaped.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said first recess surface (15a) is arranged adjacent to and essentially parallel to said top surface layer (4).

4. (currently amended): The method of any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 3 wherein said first and second recess surfaces (15a, 15b) are plain.

5. (currently amended): The method of any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 4, wherein the step of closing said recess (15) includes the step of applying adhesive.

6. (currently amended): The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 5, wherein the step of closing said recess (15) includes the step of applying pressure to said ledge (16).
7. (currently amended): The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 6, wherein said ledge (16) consists essentially of said top surface layer (4).
8. (currently amended): The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 7 wherein said floor panel (2) includes a joining element (5) for connecting to a further joining element (5) of an adjacent floor panel (2') in a floor covering (1) formed by said floor panels (2), and the step of forming said recess (15) includes the step of simultaneously forming said joining element (5).
9. (currently amended): The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 8 wherein the step of forming said recess (15) includes the step of removing material from said side surface (13b) adjacent to said recess (15) to provide a flushing side surface after having closed said recess (15).
10. (currently amended): A floor panel (2) comprising a core (3, 13a) and a beveled top edge (10a, 10b, 25, 26), the panel (2) further comprising a top surface layer (4) extending continuously and in one piece from a top side (3a, 13a) of said core (3, 13) over said beveled top edge (10a, 10b, 25, 26).
11. (new): A method of manufacturing a floor panel, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a panel body having a core, a top side of said core being provided with a top surface layer, said panel body further having a side surface extending transversely to the top surface layer;
 - forming a recess extending under the top surface layer from the side surface into the panel body by leaving a freestanding ledge including said top surface layer, said recess having at least two opposing recess surfaces; and

- closing said recess by fixing the at least two opposing recess surfaces to one another, thereby forming a floor panel having a beveled top edge with the top surface layer extending continuously and in one piece from the top side of the core over the beveled top edge.

12. (new): The method of claim 11 wherein said recess is wedge-shaped.

13. (new): The method of claim 11 wherein one of the at least two opposing recess surfaces is arranged adjacent to and essentially parallel to said top surface layer.

14. (new): The method of claim 13 wherein the at least two opposing recess surfaces are plain.

15. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of closing said recess includes the step of applying adhesive.

16. (new): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of closing said recess includes the step of applying pressure to said ledge.

17. (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said ledge consists essentially of said top surface layer.

18. (new): The method of claim 16 wherein said floor panel includes a joining element for connecting to a further joining element of an adjacent floor panel in a floor covering formed by said floor panels, and the step of forming said recess includes the step of simultaneously forming said joining element.

19. (new): The method of claim 18 wherein the step of forming said recess includes the step of removing material from said side surface adjacent to said recess to provide a flushing side surface after having closed said recess.

20. (new): A method of manufacturing a floor panel, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a panel body having a core, a top side of said core being provided with a top surface layer, said panel body further having a side surface extending transversely to the top surface layer;
- forming a recess extending under the top surface layer from the side surface into the panel body by leaving a freestanding ledge including said top surface layer, said recess having at least two opposing recess surfaces;
- closing said recess by fixing the at least two opposing recess surfaces to one another by applying adhesives and applying pressure to said ledge, thereby forming a floor panel having a beveled top edge with the top surface layer extending continuously and in one piece from the top side of the core over the beveled top edge; and,
- removing material from said side surface adjacent to said recess to provide a flushing side surface after having closed said recess.

21. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein said recess is wedge-shaped.

22. (new): The method of claim 21 wherein one of the at least two opposing recess surfaces is arranged adjacent to and essentially parallel to said top surface layer.

23. (new): The method of claim 22 wherein the at least two opposing recess surfaces are plain.

24. (new): The method of claim 23, wherein said ledge consists essentially of said top surface layer.

25. (new): The method of claim 24 wherein said floor panel includes a joining element for connecting to a further joining element of an adjacent floor panel in a floor covering formed by said floor panels, and the step of forming said recess includes the step of simultaneously forming said joining element.

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